

Serial No. 10/682,362  
60130-1911  
01MRA0542

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A latch assembly comprising:

a latch including a recessed mouth to receive a striker bar and a latch bolt moveable in a first plane to cooperate with the recessed mouth and releasably retain the striker bar, wherein the recessed mouth including includes a first wedge arrangement having an inwardly facing first abutment surface and an inwardly facing second abutment surface, and the first wedge arrangement is being provided laterally of, and on both sides of, the latch bolt, the inwardly facing first abutment surface and the inwardly facing second abutment surface being substantially perpendicular to the first plane ~~striker bar, and wherein the latch is mountable to one of a first vehicle door structure and one of a vehicle body and a second vehicle door; and~~

a striker including ~~a the~~ striker bar, the striker bar having a striker bar axis, a first striker bar end region, a second striker bar end region and a second wedge arrangement having a third abutment surface and a fourth abutment surface, wherein the second wedge arrangement is provided laterally with respect to the latch bolt of the latch longitudinally with respect to the striker bar axis at the first striker bar end region and the second striker bar end region and the striker is mountable to the other of the first vehicle door and the other of the vehicle door and the second vehicle door structure,

~~and wherein engagement of the latch bolt of the latch and the striker releasably secures the first vehicle door structure to the one of the vehicle body and the second vehicle door structure~~ by relative displacement of the latch towards the striker such that the striker bar axis extends perpendicular to the first plane when the striker bar is releasably retained by the latch bolt, and

wherein the first wedge arrangement and the second wedge arrangement prevent movement between the latch and the striker in a direction substantially parallel to the first plane when the latch assembly is in a latched condition, and the inwardly facing first abutment surface and the inwardly facing second abutment surface engage the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface, respectively.

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2. (ORIGINAL) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface include a guide arrangement to assist the latch in engagement with the striker during relative displacement of the latch towards the striker.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the inwardly facing first abutment surface includes a third-first region and the fourth-inwardly facing second abutment surface includes a second region substantially parallel to the first region.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to ~~any~~ claim 1 wherein at least one of the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface includes a substantially planar region.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to ~~any~~ claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface are ~~proximate~~ directly adjacent to the striker bar.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 5 wherein the striker includes a first arm and a second arm that retain ~~ends of the~~ first striker bar end region and the second striker bar end region, respectively, and the first arm and the second arm extend transverse to the striker bar axis.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 6 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface ~~abutment~~ are provided on at least one of the first arm and the second arm.
8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The assembly according to claim 7 wherein at least one of the first arm and the second arm is a metal plate that at least partially encircles the striker bar and provides the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface.

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9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 6 wherein the first arm and the second arm are integral with a structure that mounts the striker to ~~the one of the first vehicle door component and the one of the second vehicle door and the vehicle body.~~
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the inwardly facing first abutment surface and the inwardly facing second abutment surface are resilient.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the inwardly facing first abutment surface includes a first region and the inwardly facing second abutment surface includes a second region substantially parallel to the first region, and wherein the first region and the second region are separated by a striker spacing.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 11 wherein the third abutment surface includes a third region and the fourth abutment surface includes a fourth region substantially parallel to the third region, ~~wherein the third region and the fourth region are separated by a latch spacing, and wherein the striker spacing is less than the latch spacing.~~
13. (ORIGINAL) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface includes a third region and the fourth abutment surface includes a fourth region substantially parallel to the third region.

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14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A latch assembly comprising:

a latch including a recessed mouth to receive a striker bar and a latch bolt moveable in a first plane to cooperate with the recessed mouth and releasably retain the striker bar, wherein the recessed mouth includes an inwardly facing~~including a~~ first abutment surface having a first region and a second abutment surface having a second region substantially parallel to the first region, wherein the latch is mountable to ~~one of a first vehicle door and one of a vehicle body and a second vehicle door component~~;

a striker including ~~a~~the striker bar having a striker bar axis, a third abutment surface and a fourth abutment surface, wherein the striker is mountable to ~~the other of the first vehicle door and the other of the vehicle body and the~~ a second vehicle door component and wherein engagement of the latch bolt of the latch and the striker releasably secures the first vehicle component door to the ~~one of the vehicle body and the second vehicle component door~~ by relative displacement of the latch towards the striker such that the striker bar axis extends substantially perpendicular to the first plane when the striker bar is releasably retained by the latch bolt; and

a vertical wedge arrangement to prevent movement between the latch and the striker in a direction substantially parallel to the first plane when the latch assembly is in ~~the~~ a latched condition, wherein the vertical wedge arrangement is provided laterally of, and on both sides of, the latch bolt and the inwardly facing first abutment surface and the second abutment surface are substantially perpendicular to the first plane and engage the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface, respectively.

15. (ORIGINAL) The assembly according to claim 14 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface include a guide arrangement to assist the latch in engagement with the striker during relative displacement of the latch towards the striker.

16. (ORIGINAL) The assembly according to claim 14 wherein at least one of the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface include a substantially planar region.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 14 wherein the inwardly facing first abutment surface and the second abutment surface are resilient.

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18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 14 wherein ~~the first abutment surface includes a first region and the second abutment surface includes a second region substantially parallel to the first region, and the first region and the second region are separated by a striker spacing.~~

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly according to claim 18 wherein the third abutment surface includes a third region and the fourth abutment surface includes a fourth region ~~are separated by a latch spacing, and wherein the striker spacing is less than the latch spacing.~~

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A striker for releasable securment to a latch ~~including a latch bolt having a mouth~~, the striker comprising:

a mounting portion;

a striker bar to be releasably retain the retained by a latch bolt of the latch, the striker bar including a striker bar axis, a first striker bar end region and a second striker bar end region; and

a first arm and a second arm that retain the first striker bar end region and the second striker bar end region and connect the striker bar to the mounting portion, wherein the first arm and the second arm extend transverse to the striker bar axis and at least one of the first arm and the second arm is a metal plate that at least partially encircles the striker bar and provides a first planar surface and a second planar surface substantially parallel to the first planar surface and arranged to engage the a recessed mouth of the latch and to substantially prevent relative deflection perpendicular to a plane of the first planar surface and the second planar surface ~~transverse to the striker bar axis.~~

21. (NEW) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface contact the first striker bar end region and the second striker bar end region, respectively.

22. (NEW) The assembly according to claim 1 further including a gap between the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface, wherein the striker is received in the gap when the latch assembly is in the latched condition.